

KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

June 2, 2022

Paris, Kentucky

Present:

Chris Black
Wayne Briscoe
Mike Haney
Josh Keats
Tamela Kerr
Ricky King
Scott Lawson
Lonnie Madden
Dwane Smeathers
Mike Sutt

Absent:

Joe Choate
Dustin Isaacs
Andrew Scott

Ex Officio Members

Present:

Joe Baer
Eric Philpot
Cathy Rigney

Absent:

Dr. Paul Czarapata

Ricky King called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (EST). Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the minutes from April 14, 2022 in Elizabethtown Kentucky. Wayne Briscoe seconded. Motion approved.

Old Business

None.

Eligibility Committee

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met earlier this morning and the only item of business that we had was approval for the Incentive pay program benefits for three departments. The departments are Mercer County Fire Protection District, Belleview McVille Fire Department and Verona Fire Department. These requests are all for the Chiefs of these departments. Scott Lawson motion to approve Incentive pay for these departments. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

Finance Committee

Brenda Goddard said the Finance Committee met yesterday. Brenda said everyone should have received a financial packet in the mail. The Board of Regents is looking at some salary increases for full time staff. They have asked for three proposals. One is for a 5% base increase plus years of service in a current position. The second option is 5% plus years of service with KCTCS. The third option is a 7% increase with no increase to the base. Brenda said in everyone's packets there was a budget for SFRT. There are no full-time employees in this budget. Within this particular budget, Brenda said we did put in for an increase for the part time staff, which would go from \$10.00 to \$14.00. On the part time instructors, the \$21.00 rate will go to \$25.00. Brenda Goddard said with the Fire Commission, we have to look at the three options because that is where the full-time staff is. Brenda Goddard said the Finance Committee made a motion to approve all three of those budgets as proposed with the understanding that the KCTCS Board of Regents will be meeting next week and when they approve the option systemwide, we will adopt whichever budget they approve. Ricky King said we need a motion to approve the three budget proposals and then call a special Fire Commission meeting to give a final approval of KCTCS's decision. Mike Haney motion to approve the three budget proposals. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Jeremy Rodgers said the Board of Regents will meet on June 10, 2022. Jeremy asked is everyone okay with meeting on June 16, 2022 at 1:00 pm (EST) to approve the Board's decision. Everyone is good with this meeting date. Bruce Roberts said we need approval of the complete operating budget for the Fire Commission. Scott Lawson motion to approve the complete operating budget for the Fire Commission. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

Jeremy Rodgers said we did not have any loans for this meeting. The only thing we had was the final approval for 739 KAR 2070, which is the loan regulation. Jeremy said that John Wood, Bruce Roberts, and he have been working on tidying up everything to increase the loan amount from \$75,000.00 to \$125,000.00 and the loan terms from 12 years to 15 years and eliminate the department's requirement of having a 25% down payment for the loan. The interest rate will still stay at 3%. Jeremy said statutorily the Fire Commission Board does not have the authority to delegate the authority for the Office to preapprove a loan. Jeremy said John thinks if there is a time crunch for a loan, that we can call a Special Fire Commission meeting for approval of that loan. Jeremy said with the Commission's approval, John Wood will proceed forward with filing the loan changes. Our deadline is June 15th. We will start working on the hearing date. If everything goes as planned, we will be able to enact the new loan program as of January 1, 2023. Scott Lawson motion to approve changing the loan regulations. Chris Black seconded. Motion approved.

State Fire Rescue Training

Marc Rudder said that SFRT has had a very busy year. We are thankful to be able to meet in person again. Marc said under SFRT on Facebook, we are doing a weekly spotlight on props that we have. We have machinery rescue props that has been a highlight. We have also highlighted our two, three and four story towers. Our Hazmat Training Tech prop was used at NRPC recently.

Marc Rudder said we are growing. We are working on filling vacant positions. Marc said on June 16, 2022, Chris Gosnell will be the new District 6 Coordinator in Louisville. Marc said we plan on posting again in July for the NRPC Coordinator position. Marc Rudder said we will also be posting for the District 12 Office in Hazard after July. After the District Coordinator has been hired, we will be working on filling the position of the Office Coordinator. Marc Rudder said in July, we will start working on hiring four training specialists. They will be expected to travel and help with classes. They will be based at a SFRT Office close to where they live.

Marc said they will be scheduling through the Accredited certifications, the Driver Operator Pumper, and Driver Operator Aerial tests either later this year or in the new year. These tests will be conducted on three consecutive days at different locations across the state.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said that the State Fire Marshal's Office has got their administrative regulations for the Standards of Safety adopted and approved in March 2022. They adopted the 2018 Life Safety Code and Uniform Fire Code. Since then, they have been having meetings at the District training sites. Mike thanked the Fire Commission and SFRT for letting them use the District training sites. They have had a good turnout. It has been well received. Mike Haney said they just finished interviews for a new position in Jefferson County.

Office of Homeland Security

Josh Keats said the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security has created a position that will be based out of Louisville and assigned to the JTTF with the FBI and work out of the Airport increasing Synergy support with Ft. Knox. Josh said they have started smart renovations to their office space. They are going to accommodate four Federal Special Agents that will be working out of their office.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Eric Philpot said they have been busy getting ready for State Fire School. It will start next Tuesday with Fire Officer I. As of this morning, there are 593 students registered for fire school. We have six classes that are completely full. We still have some classes with vacancies. Preregistration is closed. The host hotel for State Fire School is the Embassy Suites on Newtown at Exit 115. The classroom portion will be held at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College on the Leestown Campus. We have several offsite classes being held. Eric said we had to cancel six classes due to low attendance.

Eric Philpot said the KFA Conference will be held in Corbin this year. The Conference will be on August 3rd through the 6th at the Corbin Arena.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's

Cathy Rigney said we have our chiefs meeting at 3:00 pm this afternoon here at the Fire Commission Office. Cathy said the Southeast Fire Chief's Association President is retiring. Nathan Mulvey will be taking his place. Cathy said their conference is coming up on August 23rd through the 25th in Bowling Green Kentucky.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's

Joe Baer said we had a successful legislative session. The main piece of legislation they got passed was Senate Bill 209, which provided a considerable increase to retirement healthcare benefits. Joe explained the benefits of this bill. The end goal is to get everyone their healthcare.

Joe Baer discussed House Bill 777, which is the EMS bill. There is a taskforce that is supposed to be meeting sometime soon to provide recommendations by this December.

Joe Baer asked have we heard anything on the annual contracts that KCTCS employees have to sign. Larry Potter said Dr. Czarapata is now his boss. He has discussed this a little bit with him. They are going to continue working on this.

KBEMS

None.

New Business

None.

Executive Director Comments

Larry Potter said we are looking at an expansion on this conference room and maybe doubling the size of it. Larry thanked everyone for being here. Larry thanked Brenda for all of her hard work on this budget. Larry said Rick Larkins will be going full time with CPAT. Larry said they have opened an Asset Specialist position in our Office. This person will help with our properties, facilities, and our fleet. Larry Potter asked everyone to think about Tiger Robinson. He is having some health issues. Larry said they have been looking at properties that have already been built. They are looking in Somerset. The bids will be opening again for NRPC.

Larry Potter said they attended thirteen fire chief's meetings across the State of Kentucky. Larry said they touched approximately five hundred fire departments. They are going to do that again this year but look at a different venue for this. Les Whalen thanked Larry and the Commission for the PPE grants. These grants go a long way for the fire departments.

Correspondence

None.

Announcements from Audience

Bruce Roberts said starting in July, the Chapter 273 fire departments can merge and continue drawing their State Aid. Part time employees will not have to sit out for 90 days before they start working again. Bruce said with the DLG reporting, departments will not have to do the paper reporting. These departments will receive a visit from our Office every 12 to 18 months to have their finances checked. Bruce said Incentive pay will go up \$300.00 and State Aid will go up \$500.00 in July.

Ricky King said we talked to a lady at our last meeting in Elizabethtown about the state fair. Have we talked to her since then? Larry said we are going to try to get something together on this. Eric said we are going to try to have an outdoor booth and an indoor booth at the Fair.

Les Whalen asked can a line be added to the training system for the large apparatus engines, etc.... Maybe add a category of CC0002 into the training system. Larry Potter asked Les Whalen to send Jeremy Rodgers an email concerning this.

Scott Lawson asked what is the status on Acadis concerning the certification summary reports. Jeremy Rodgers said it is in the final stages of testing. It should be added to Acadis with the next upgrade.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Chris Black seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm (EST).